

105.1047

DT/Knothe - 12.10.19<sub>26</sub> New Brunswick, N.J.  
October 12, 1926

Re: George Sipel statement  
that he called at the Russell  
place on the night of the murder.

On Sunday last I interviewed Theodore Knothe at his home in Oakhurst, N.J. His home is located off the main highway in the rear of Brown's Laundry. Knothe is at present engaged in the restaurant business at South Belmar and was formerly agent for the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals at this city.

He recalls the trouble between Mrs. Russell and Sipel over a horse and that on the night of the murder he went to Bound Brook with Sipel for the purpose of making a complaint before Recorder Flammer, but that they could not locate him.

He also says that on one occasion he accompanied Sipel to the Russell place at night, but they did not find her at home. Whether this was the same night that they went to Bound Brook he is unable to state.

Simpson has had him to Somerville for questioning and was anxious to have him set the definite time as to date, etc., that is, whether or not the visit was the same night as the murder. This he was unable to do.

In going over the statement of Nellie Lo Russell I find that she claims to have arrived home at 8 P.M. and Sipel claims he and Knothe were there at 9:15 P.M., at which time they found no one at home, after which they proceeded to Bound Brook to look for Flammer. It would seem as though Sipel might be mistaken in his time as 9:15 P.M. is rather a late hour to leave the Russell place to find a Recorder in Bound Brook.

I must admit that when Knothe told me he did not recall the night he accompanied Sipel to the Russell place I did not give the question of the time of night of the visit to Bound Brook a second thought. However, while Knothe cannot say as to the night of the visit to Russell's, I feel that it is important to try to see if he recalls the hour of the night that he went to Bound Brook, etc. If he fixes the time as earlier in the evening than Sipel does, it will tend to show that Sipel was at the Russell home earlier than 9:15 P.M. and probably before Nellie's arrival home.

I will therefore see Knothe again at the first opportunity and furnish a further report.

Respectfully yours,

DAVID THOMPSON